

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on
January 31, 2012 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Carrie or Derek at Westfield City Hall: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3001 if you have any questions.

January 31, 2012

Agenda

- I. Announcements
- II. Q&A
- III. Legislation Committee Updates
- IV. School Zone Speeds and Signage
- V. Closing Announcements



I. Announcements

The next WeCAN meeting is on **Tuesday, February 28, at 7pm at City Hall Assembly Room** (130 Penn St).

John Dippel, City Council Vice-President, opened the meeting with introductions.

It was announced that Tammy Havard will be stepping down in her role as City liaison for WeCAN. Carrie Cason and Derek Todd of the City's Communication Department will be your WeCAN contacts for the City beginning immediately.

II. Q & A

Mayor Cook answered questions about various topics asked by the residents.

This is a summary of questions presented:

Q: Explain the Water Rate Adjustment – confusion with article in Current.

A: Maintenance is a small part of rate adjustment. The City Council had asked staff to reevaluate needs every three years. The City needs to make \$30 million in upgrades to the water infrastructure. This includes replacing current pipe with larger pipes to push more water out to the homes and an additional water tower to be built on the west side of the City. Wastewater increase is to cover the outstanding debt from the west side interceptor project.

Q: Is the sewer rate based on water usage? Watering the lawn doesn't go into the sewer, why pay?

A: Yes. There is a max we can charge on sewer. It is wrapped in with water bill. Residents end up paying the same amount of sewer regardless if they were charged on usage or flat rate.

Q: Oak Rd. between 151st and 161st is deteriorating. What's being done?

A: The City is aware of Oak Rd. We have \$3.2 million of resurfacing needed this summer and only \$600,000 to spend. Public Works is currently prioritizing resurfacing projects.

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Q: Crosswind Commons at 156th St and Spring Mill are getting people cutting through neighborhood to avoid four-way stop that backs up. Can anything be done?

A: Westfield Police Officer Scott Jordan was made aware of the heavy traffic in the neighborhood and will send patrols out to monitor the traffic through the neighborhood.

Q: Union and SR32 intersection needs improved. What is the works?

A: The intersections will not be improved until after US31 is complete. The City asked INDOT to improve the intersection; however, if selected from other state-wide projects, work would not begin until 2017 at earliest.

Q: Update on Grand Park

A: Excavation is underway. Ponds are being dug as well as utilities placed into the ground. Mainstreet, a senior living facility will break ground on May 1st. Community Development is working with a couple restaurants and hotels to be built at Grand Park. Grand Park is scheduled to open play in the fall of 2012. Eight baseball and eight soccer fields will be complete in 2012 with the rest of the fields, concession, and buildings to be completed by 2013.

Q: What's happening with Union Flatts in downtown and Grand Junction?

A: Drainage issues with Union Flatts have been resolved and the project continues to move right along. The city is currently in the process of acquiring the land for Grand Junction. The city should take possession of the muffler shop in June.

III. Legislation Committee Update

Ron from brought to attention Senate Bill 0112. The bill negatively affects homeowner's association and land that the HOA might own.

IV. Speed Limits in School Zones

The speed limit discussion started with Councilman John Dippel opening discussion on school zone speeds and signage.

There were several other points that the representatives at the meeting made:

- Speed differential (changing from 40mph to 20mph) increases the risk for accidents.
- 7am – 7pm is unreasonable – most of the time, there is not very much traffic.
- There are hundreds of children on the soccer fields on a Saturday at Shamrock Springs Elementary and no School Zone Speed Limit applies.
- Flashing lights (like the ones to mark the trails) were another suggestion but are cost prohibitive. They are about \$8,000 each. It would need 2 lights (one for each direction). The flashing lights for the trails were obtained through grants.
- Questioned whether school zones were even needed if not adjacent to neighborhood or crosswalk.

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Most agreement occurred with the following suggestions:

- Signs should notice the school zone with more advance notice (greater distance between “School Zone Ahead” and “School Zone”)
- Lane markings on the roadway “SCHOOL” would help at the edge of the zone.
- 30mph suggested for the reduced school zone speed limit.
- Would like to see signs that read, School Zone Speed Limit “When Children are Present”. Many people without children in schools don’t know the school schedule.

V. Closing Announcements

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If you have any topic suggestions or issues that you have questions on, please don’t hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov.

For updated announcements and information from the past meetings, please visit the WeCAN Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wecaninformation/>